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Docket No. 17MY-7138

Amendments to the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 1, 2, 6 and 8 and add new claims 19 and 20 as follows.²

ay Claim 1 (Currently amended): A precipitation-hardened stainless steel alloy
consisting ~~essentially~~ of, by weight:

14.0 to 16.0 percent chromium;

6.0 to 7.0 percent nickel;

1.25 to 1.75 percent copper;

0.5 to 1.0 percent molybdenum;

0.03 to 0.5 percent carbon;

niobium in an amount by weight of ten to twenty times greater than carbon;

not greater than 1.0 percent manganese;

not greater than 1.0 percent silicon;

not greater than 0.1 percent vanadium;

not greater than 0.1 percent tin;

not greater than 0.030 percent nitrogen;

not greater than 0.020 percent phosphorus;

not greater than 0.025 percent aluminum;

² Claim amendments presented herein are in accordance with the "Revised Amendment Format" published in the Official Gazette on February 25, 2003. Strikethroughs indicate deletions and underlining indicates insertions.

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not greater than 0.008 percent sulfur;
not greater than 0.005 percent silver;
not greater than 0.005 percent lead; and
the balance being essentially iron;

~~wherein the alloy has a grain size of ASTM 5 or finer, a delta ferrite content of less than 0.5 weight percent, an ultimate tensile strength of at least 1200 MPa, a Charpy impact toughness of greater than 55 J, and has been is tempered at a temperature of about 480°C to about 525°C.~~

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A precipitation-hardened stainless steel alloy according to claim 1, wherein the steel alloy has a Charpy impact toughness of at least 55 80 J.

Claim 3 (Original): A precipitation-hardened stainless steel alloy according to claim 1, wherein the alloy contains niobium in an amount by weight of 10.0 to about 15 times greater than carbon.

Claim 4 (Original): A precipitation-hardened stainless steel alloy according to claim 1, wherein the carbon content of the alloy is 0.03 to about 0.04 weight percent.

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Claim 5 (Original): A precipitation-hardened stainless steel alloy according to claim 1, wherein the nitrogen content of the alloy is less than 0.020 weight percent.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A precipitation-hardened stainless steel alloy according to claim 1, wherein the grain size of the alloy is ASTM 5 7 or finer.

Claim 7 (Original): A precipitation-hardened stainless steel alloy according to claim 1, wherein the alloy is in the form of a steam turbine component.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A steam turbine component formed of a precipitation-hardened stainless steel alloy consisting of, by weight:

about 14.5 percent chromium;

about 6.5 percent nickel;

about 1.5 percent copper;

about 0.7 percent molybdenum;

0.03 to 0.4 percent carbon;

niobium in an amount by weight of 10.0 to about 15 times greater than carbon;

about 0.3 to about 0.8 percent manganese;

about 0.2 to about 0.5 percent silicon;

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not greater than 0.05 percent vanadium;

not greater than 0.01 percent tin;

not greater than 0.030 percent nitrogen;

not greater than 0.015 percent phosphorus;

not greater than 0.020 percent aluminum;

not greater than 0.0002 percent sulfur;

not greater than 0.0001 percent silver;

not greater than 0.0001 percent lead;

the balance being essentially iron;

wherein the alloy has a grain size of ASTM 7 or finer, a delta ferrite content of less than 0.5 weight percent, an ultimate tensile strength of at least 1275 MPa, a Charpy impact toughness of at least 80 J, and has been is tempered at a temperature of about 480°C to about 500°C.

Claim 9 (Original): A steam turbine component according to claim 8,
wherein the alloy has a Charpy impact toughness of 80 to about 110 J.

Claims 10-18 (Withdrawn)

Claim 19 (New): A precipitation-hardened stainless steel alloy according to

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claim 1, wherein the alloy has a delta ferrite content of less than 0.5 weight percent.

Claim 20 (New): A precipitation-hardened stainless steel alloy according to
claim 1, wherein the alloy has an ultimate tensile strength of at least 1200 MPa.

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